

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2020

Governor Kim Reynolds  
State of Iowa  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds,

I write to express concern regarding the growing outbreak of coronavirus within our state and I ask again that you implement a statewide stay-at-home order. There is no doubt that this global pandemic has reached Iowa, with more and more people testing positive across the state every day. I appreciate your efforts so far to manage this crisis and we must take this next step to protect our communities. Thank you for your time and willingness to discuss the issue, but I hope you will reconsider your decision and move forward with a stay-at-home order.

In the short time since spoke yesterday morning, two more of my constituents have died from coronavirus, bringing the total number of deaths to three. After consulting with medical professionals, especially those in the Dubuque area where we saw the first tragic passing of a coronavirus patient, I feel even more strongly that we must take every precaution to protect our families and the essential workers who our state and the nation rely on.

Older Americans are more likely to become seriously ill as the result of coronavirus and with 17% of Iowans over the age of 65, this outbreak has the potential to become far worse. Already, there are concerns about the availability of personal protective equipment, inpatient beds, and critical medical supplies in our state. A rapid rise in cases could quickly overwhelm our health care system. The recently confirmed cases at a Cedar Rapids nursing home, which include four patients and two employees, underscore the need to protect our most vulnerable and to ensure Iowans on the frontline of our response have the safest environment to work in while caring for our friends and neighbors.

A stay-at-home order will not only help protect our health care providers and other essential frontline workers, but also Iowans who work in our state's most important industries. Iowa plays a critical role in our nation's economy as a major player in the domestic food supply chain. From our farmers in the field to food processors on the factory line to those stocking the shelves at our local grocery stores, Americans—both urban and rural—are connected to our state's food system. If we fail to control the spread of coronavirus and cases in Iowa continue to multiply, I am concerned not only about the long-term effects on our local economies but also the immediate impact on food and agriculture production. By protecting our essential employees and businesses, we are protecting the future of our state.

We must put the health and safety of Iowa families above all else at this time. I stand ready to fight for whatever resources you require to help our state navigate this crisis, and I recognize that additional support will be needed while a stay-at-home order is in place. However, I strongly believe that any assistance provided to help our businesses and workers recover financially from a stay-at-home order will be far less than the resources that may be needed if the virus continues to spread.

A stay-at-home order will save lives and protect the economic interests of our state in the long-term, and I hope you will move forward with implementing such an order. Thank you for your ongoing efforts during this emergency, and I look forward to continuing to work together to protect Iowa communities and their health.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abby', followed by a stylized flourish.

Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress